

**Statement of Representative Anna G. Eshoo**  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
*Hearing on Patient Relief from Collapsing Health Markets*  
2123 Rayburn House Office Building  
February 2, 2017

Republicans have threatened to take health care away from 30 million Americans through the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. My constituents are terrified that they will lose their health care. Hundreds have written and called me to express their fears. Republicans have said that they will protect them by passing something “better” than the ACA.

The Majority now has the White House, the Senate and the House and, you’ve had seven years to come up with a plan. Yet today, you show up with a half-written bill that does not guarantee protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. Today is your first opportunity to show the American people that you will protect them, to assuage their fears about losing their health care and to show the American people that you have a better plan.

The plan we’re discussing today is not better and as it is written, it does not protect those with preexisting conditions from exorbitant premium increases because it does not include medical underwriting for those with preexisting conditions, leading to higher premiums.

This proposal is irresponsible and ignores the gravity of the situation for the millions of Americans who are afraid of what ‘repeal and replacement’ of the ACA means for them.